COASTAL RECYCLING
RECOVERING RESOURCES™

Your guide to:

Simpler Recycling

What is Simpler Recycling?

As part of England's ongoing efforts to prioritise a more sustainable future, **Defra's Simpler Recycling** Plan aims to streamline and standardise recycling practices making it easier for businesses and households to recycle more effectively.

The new regulations which will initially impact businesses with 10 or more full-time equivalent employees, will come into force on **31st March 2025**. It is important for businesses to familiarise themselves with the new rules and their implications.

Why Simpler Recycling?

Reducing Confusion

The reforms will reduce confusion over what can and can't be recycled in different parts of the country.

Meet Targets

The reforms will help meet the governments target to recycle 65% of municipal waste by 2035.

Improve Recycling Rates

The reforms will improve recycling rates. Household recycling rates in England have flatlined at around 44% to 45% since 2015.

Combat Waste Crime

The reforms will help combat waste related crime which costs the country approximately £1 billion annually.

What are the regulations?

Under the new government regulations, businesses and other non-household premises with 10 or more full-time equivalent employees will be required to segregate and recycle **ALL** required materials*:

From **March 31st, 2025**, these materials are required to be separated from your general waste containers for collection.

Paper & Card

All paper & cardboard **except**:

- Paper and card that contains glitter or foil
- Paper that is laminated
- Stickers and sticky paper
- Padded lined envelopes
- Paperback and hardback books
- Wallpaper

Metals

- Steel and aluminium tins and cans
- Some other Metal based items to consider:
  - Steel and aluminium aerosols
  - Aluminium foils
  - Aluminium food trays
  - Steel and aluminium lids and caps

Plastics

- Pots, tubs and trays
- Plastic bottles
- Cartons for food, drink and other liquids, including aseptic and chilled cartons

Food Waste

- All food intended for human or household pet consumption
- Biodegradable materials from the processing or preparation of food
- This includes inedible food such as bones, eggshells, tea bags & coffee grounds and fruit and vegetable skins

Glass

- Including bottles and jars

Key dates for Simpler Recycling

31st March 2025

Mandatory collections for businesses and non-household premises with 10 or more full-time equivalent employees, for dry recyclable materials (glass, paper, card, metals, plastics) and will need to separate food waste.

Plastic film and green waste will be exempt.

31st March 2026

Mandatory collections for households to recycle all waste streams, except plastic films.

Local authorities will start receiving ongoing funding for food waste collections and all core recycling collections continue.

31st March 2027

Micro-business with fewer than 10 employees must recycle all specified waste streams.

Plastic film and plastic bags will be included in the plastic waste stream.

What are the implications for my business?

There may be operational or financial implications on your business, depending on how you currently manage and segregate waste. However, by reviewing your current waste practices and planning for the regulations, the changes could bring **benefits** to your business as well as **positively contributing** to sustainability and a circular economy.

How can we help your business prepare?

Recycling

We will continue to offer our Dry Mixed Recycling (DMR) service and will collect DMR in one container. DMR covers the different types of metals, plastics, paper and card, listed on page 4 and these will get separated for onward recycling at our processing site.

We have established routes in operation across Devon to accommodate the increase in demand that will come from Simpler Recycling.

With our choice of sizes, tariffs and responsibly handled waste, our wheelie bins cover all bases, regardless of sector.

Food Waste

We work with trusted food waste partners to carry out food waste collection services.

The Simpler Recycling regulations now state that food waste must be put in a separate food waste bin. If your business produces any amount of food waste including employees left over lunches or tea bags, then it will need to be separated from general waste and a food waste collection arranged.

If you don't produce huge amounts of food waste, we can provide a 23 ltr caddy. But, if you do produce small amounts of food waste, we recommend you purchasing a caddy like you'd have on your kitchen counter at home.

Glass Waste

Simpler Recycling regulations require glass to be separated from your other waste, including general waste.

We work with trusted glass waste partners to carry out our glass collection services. We can provide you with 240 ltr and 360 ltr bins and a collection schedule to suit your business needs.

What else can your business do to prepare?

Here are some tips to prepare your business for the Simpler Recycling regulations:

Review your current waste practices

Assess your current waste collection and disposal practices, or ask a waste management business like Coastal Recycling to audit your waste and identify any areas where you need to make changes.

Develop a waste management plan

Create a plan that outlines how you will comply with the Simpler Recycling. The plan should include your waste sources, types, waste reduction goals as well as storage and collection requirements.

Invest in recycling infrastructure

You many need invest in new recycling bins, recycling signage, and other infrastructure to support your recycling efforts. You can also talk to Coastal Recycling about the most cost effective way to manage your waste.

Educate your employees on regulations

Make sure your employees are aware of Simpler Recycling reforms and the importance of complying with the regulations.

FAQs

What happens if I require daily collections, and Coastal Recycling can't meet my requirements?

We will always aim to meet your service needs with our own team here at Coastal. When this is not possible, we work closely with a range of trusted waste partners who will be able to deliver the service on our behalf.

Why can't I put my glass in my DMR containers despite the legislation saying I can do it?

Although Defra's Simpler Recycling legislation states you can put your glass in your DMR, most Material Recycling Facilities including Coastal Recycling's is not equipped to handle glass. Putting glass in your DMR bin could mean your glass not being recycled at all. Broken glass in your DMR could also put our recycling operatives at risk of cutting or hurting themselves.

What size containers do you have available?

We have a large choice of containers you can choose from to fit the space you have. The good news is your Dry Mixed Recycling (plastics, metals, paper and card) can go in one container.

What happens if I don't have the space needed to store all the wheelie bins and containers?

We have a large choice of containers you can choose from to fit the space you have. The good news is your Dry Mixed Recycling (plastics, metals, paper and card) can go in one container.

My business is centrally managed, and we share a bin area. How do we demonstrate we are compliant with the legislation?

You will need to demonstrate that you are segregating the materials in scope under Simpler Recycling at site level. Therefore, if you produce them, you will need to have containers for dry mixed recycling, food and glass.

Will this new legislation cost me more?

This will really depend on the current recycling practices, current services, collection frequency and your future needs. Recycling is not always the cheapest option, but if we want to secure a more sustainable future, we all need to play our part.

By **31st March 2025** businesses will need to comply with the new practices. This will involve arranging collections and recycling for the waste streams by licensed waste collectors such as Coastal Recycling.

If you have any questions, concerns or need advice, please do get in touch.

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